

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 486

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Jennifer Azzi upon her induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as exceptional athletes and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Jennifer Azzi, who will be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame this year, a most befitting recognition of her outstanding accomplishments as an athlete; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oak Ridge, Ms. Azzi was a standout basketball player at Oak Ridge High School, and her tremendous athletic prowess and basketball skills earned her a scholarship to play basketball and further her education at Stanford University; and

WHEREAS, a two-time All-American point guard and the catalyst of Stanford's first national championship, she excelled at her position, and she still stands as Stanford University's all-time leader in career assists with 751, and career steals with 271; and

WHEREAS, her most cherished memories involve the 1989-1990 season, in which she led the Lady Cardinal to a 32-1 record and an 88-81 victory over Auburn in the national final, posting four three-pointers, five assists, and scoring seventeen points in the victory over the Lady Tigers; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, she stands among the most decorated women basketball players ever; she has been recognized for her esteemed basketball skills with several prestigious honors, including among others, being named to the Kodak All-American First Team in 1989 and 1990, receiving the 1990 Wade Trophy and the

1990 Naismith Award, being named the West Region Most Valuable Player (MVP) and the NCAA Final Four MVP in 1990, receiving the Pac 10 Player of the Year Award in 1989 and 1990, and being named three times to the All-Pac 10 First Team; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding student as well, Ms. Azzi earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Stanford University in 1990; and

WHEREAS, a member of the USA Women's Basketball National Team in 1990-1991, and again in 1993-1997, she was a member of the gold medal-winning 1996 team that concluded a perfect 60-0 1995-1996 season with an 8-0 Olympic run; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Azzi began her professional basketball career playing in the United States for the San Jose Lasers of the American Basketball League (ABL); and

WHEREAS, after the ABL declared bankruptcy, Jennifer Azzi was selected by the Detroit Shock as the fifth pick overall in the first round of the 1999 Women's Basketball National Association (WNBA) draft; and

WHEREAS, after leading the Shock into the playoffs, she was traded to the Utah Starzz and remained with the team when the franchise relocated to San Antonio, Texas, and changed its name to the San Antonio Silver Stars in 2003; and

WHEREAS, retiring from professional basketball in 2004, she currently lives in California and serves as a highly sought-after motivational speaker, published writer, and community leader, who works assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in her community, Ms. Azzi has lent her valuable time and energies to several esteemed and worthy organizations, including among others, the Children's Hunger Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Read to Achieve, Legacy Project, Positive Coaching Alliance, PE 4 Life, American Lung Association, and Breast Cancer Awareness; and

WHEREAS, her heralded accomplishments and exceptional career have been recognized by her induction into the Sports Authority Hall of Fame, Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame, the Oak Ridge High School Hall of Fame, the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, and as the youngest inductee into the Stanford University Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Azzi, a woman of true character and commitment, exemplifies dedication and leadership, and she is admired and respected for her tireless efforts to excel, always guided by solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or in the actions of her daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, and colleagues of Jennifer Azzi in congratulating her upon her induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, commend her for her substantial legacy as a athlete, motivational speaker, and community leader, and offer our deep appreciation for the dedication to excellence that she has shown throughout her life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.